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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Bernburg

50X1-HUM

EVALUATION

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 18 May 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. a. A unit stationed in Bernburg (M 52/D 76) was entrained in Albstadt (M 52/D 76) at about 7 p.m. on 13 February 1950. Six long-barreled AT guns of about 57 mm caliber with muzzle brake and fifteen 3/4 ton trucks were loaded on a train which included three coaches. It was learned that the train was bound for Altengrabow (M 53/4 00).

b. New officers arrived in Bernburg during the second half of February 1950. With the exception of three or four, all Soviet families had left the post by early March 1950.

c. Only little traffic was observed in the Bernburg barracks in early March 1950. The previously observed guns were no longer seen in the barracks area.

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Before the troops left for Altengrabow, the barracks had been occupied by about 900 troops.

2. Only about two thirds of the Bernburg barracks buildings were illuminated on the evening of 1 March 1950. Local residents said that about 800 troops had marched through the town on Red Army Day (23 February 1950). Officers said that the barracks troops drew their ration supplies from Magdeburg (M 53/Y 60).

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3. a. The barracks on Ilberstedterstrasse, Bernburg, were occupied by 600 to 700 troops of artillery units on 22 March 1950. It was the impression that the units belonged to an artillery brigade whose elements were:

(1) An AT artillery regiment with six batteries of six 76.2-mm guns each. The regiment numbered 350 to 400 troops

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(2) A tank destroyer regiment of 300 troops at the most. Equipped with heavy AT guns of 100 to 120 mm caliber.

(3) A motor transport unit of 100 to 150 men

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Two colonels, two lieutenant colonels, three majors and numerous other officers were frequently observed.

b. About 40 troops were instructed in the garages of the barracks and about 60 troops did service of the piece drill with six 76.2-mm AT guns in the barracks yard.

c. An artillery junior lieutenant, nine EM with artillery insignia and two EM without branch-of-service insignia left Bernburg on 22 March 1950, riding the regular passenger train toward Magdeburg via Guesten. The troops had much baggage with them.

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d. The building which previously housed the Bernburg komendatura was vacant.

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comment:

the following units are stationed in Bernburg:

(1) Elements (probably one AT artillery regiment) of the [] (3rd Gds?) AT Arty Brig/Third Shock Army.

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(3) It is not known whether component units of the 44th Gun Arty Brig/Third Shock Army are also stationed in Bernburg.

b. The information on an AT artillery unit entrained for Altengrabow on 13 February 1950 is given credence. AT artillery units of the [] AT Arty Brig/Third Shock Army also held their 1949 record firing at Altengrabow, starting in February.

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